



REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Borough of Barnstaple
FOR THE YEAR 1949.

The Castle,

Barnstaple,

July, 1950.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present the
Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Administration of the Borough for the year
1949.*

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

M.O.H., Barnstaple.

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List of Staff

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

PART-TIME OFFICER :—

F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS :—

A. E. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector.

R. COOPE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Miss D. BOLT to June, 1949

Clerk.

Miss E. FENNELL from April, 1949

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar General figures)	...			15,940
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	4,629
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£115,869
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£465

Vital Statistics.

		Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	139	137	276
	Illegitimate	8	3	11
				<hr/> 287 <hr/>
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population		...	...	18
		Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate	1	3	
	Illegitimate	1	0	5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				17.12
		Males	Females	Total
DEATHS		97	130	227
DEATH RATE per 1,000		...	...	14.24

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple, and England and Wales.

The Local Death Rate is shown corrected by the areal comparability factor, viz. :—0.80.

Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 (corrected)	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple	18.0	0.31	11.39	24.39	0
England and Wales	16.7	0.39	11.70	32.0	3

Infant Mortality.

The following table gives the quinquennial rates from 1914 to 1948 inclusive :—

1914—1918	71·90
1919—1923	57·46
1924—1928	68·08
1929—1933	44·19
1934—1938	59·91
1939—1943	48·71
1944—1948	38·24
1949	24·39

Deaths of Infants under one year.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	0	1
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...			24·39
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births						21·73
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						90·90
Death from Measles (all ages) ...			...			0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					...	0

Deaths over 65 years (Local)

65—69	...	22	80—84	...	41
70—74	...	28	85—89	...	17
75—79	...	34	90—94	...	11
			95	...	2
Total			155		

The following table gives the number of deaths from various diseases with the comparative figures for the previous five years and the five-yearly average for the sake of comparison.

Year.	Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.
1944	1	10	26	6
1945	1	8	22	6
1946	3	9	23	14
1947	1	10	36	6
1948	0	6	35	6
Average	1	9	28	8

1949	0	3	30	4
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The following table gives the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever notified in the Borough compared with previous years :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Para Typhoid.
1942	... 9	100	0	0
1943	... 29	12	1	1
1944	... 23	6	1	15*
1945	... 8	3	0	2†
1946	... 6	0	1	1‡
1947	... 6	0	0	1
1948	... 28	0	0	0
1949	... 9	0	0	0

* 12 of these cases attributed to a source of infection outside the district.

† Both cases were admitted to the North Devon Infirmary from the Rural District.

‡ Contracted outside the Borough.

NOTE :—For the fourth consecutive year no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Tuberculosis.

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough, has 28 beds.

Maternity Care.

The Devon County Council is continuing to act as they did in 1947, as Agents of the Regional Hospital Board, until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity cases.

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 15 beds, with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

At Bicklescombe Maternity Home, Ilfracombe, there are 20 Maternity and 4 Ante-natal beds.

There are 4 beds at Branton Nursing Home.

NOTE. During 1949, 50 Barnstaple births took place at Ilfracombe, and 7 at Branton.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Diseases Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford, which serves the town as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon. It comprises 34 beds (six of which are in observation cubicles) and 4 cots.

Small-Pox.

The Small-Pox Hospital to which any cases of Small-Pox will be sent is Upton Pyne Hospital, near Exeter. Special ambulance transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, Telephone 67158.

General.

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

A Blood Bank has been established at the North Devon Infirmary.

There are 123 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital in Barnstaple.

At Branton Nursing Home there are 4 beds for sick persons.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Laboratory is situated at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

This service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the Medical Practitioners.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

V.D. Clinic. This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe. Sessions—

Females.	Mondays, 4 p.m.	Males.	Mondays, 5.15 p.m.
	Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.		Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.

Chest Clinic held at North Devon Infirmary.

Sessions—

Tuesdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Thursdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Fridays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	A.P. refils
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		

Ambulance Services.

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e., the Devon County Council), is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the Agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and district, and the Head Quarters are in Commercial Road. The staff consists of 3 paid members, full time 20 men volunteers and 14 volunteer nurses.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

There are two district nurses practising in the Borough. Also two whole time midwives and one private midwife.

Tuberculosis.

The two following tables show cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths from this disease. Sexes are separated. Pulmonary and non-pulmonary are also differentiated.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5				
5—10			1	1
10—15				
15—20	1			
20—25	1	1		
25—35		1		
35—45				
45—55				
55—65	1			
65 and over				
Totals	3	2	1	1

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5			1	
5—10				
10—15				
15—20				
20—25				
25—35	1			
35—45		1		
45—55				
55—65				
65 and over	1			
Totals	2	1	1	0

Infectious Diseases Notified (Excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Polio- myelitis	Diphtheria	Admitted to Hospital				
									Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Polio- myelitis
Under 1 year			2		10	10							
1 to 2 years					20	14							
2 to 3 years			2		13	24							
3 to 4 years	1		2		15	24				1			
4 to 5 years					16	15				1			
5 to 10 years	6		1		37	48			3				
10 to 15 years					4	1			1				
15 to 20 years	2				1		1						
20 to 35 years		1	3	3	2	2							1
35 to 45 years			3	1		1	1				1	2	
45 to 65 years		1	7		1								1
65 years & over		2	4			1							
TOTAL ...	9	4	24*	4†	119	140§	†2	Nil	4	2	1	2	2

* Pneumonia. One case, a visitor from Swansea.

† Puerperal Pyrexia. Two cases admitted to North Devon Infirmary from Rural District.

§ Whooping Cough. One case admitted to North Devon Infirmary from Rural District.

† Poliomylitis. One case admitted to North Devon Infirmary from Rural District—subsequently removed to Bideford Isolation Hospital, and died.

For the fourth year in succession no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information for 1949.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

Number of children who received a course of primary injections	...	...	...	358
Number of children who received a reinforcing injection	...	..	...	392

VACCINATION.

Number vaccinated under 1 year of age	...	...	53
Number vaccinated 1-4 years	...	...	4

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at the North Devon Athenæum for the following information:—

Barometer.	Highest reading 30·8 ins. Lowest reading 28·3 ins.
Temperature.	Maximum 90° 12th July. Minimum 24° 3rd March. Mean for the year 52·2°
Rainfall.	28·32 ins. Average preceding 10 years 33·07 ins. No. of days on which '01 ins. or more of rain fell, 158.

Causes of Death during the Year 1949

Causes of Death		M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	0	1
Diphtheria	...	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	1	0
Syphilitic Diseases	...	0	0
Influenza	...	0	0
Measles	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	0	0
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	0	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Males) and Uterus (Females)	...	3	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	2	3
Cancer of Breast	...	0	2
Cancer of all other sites	...	8	9
Diabetes	...	0	0
Inter-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	12	18
Heart Disease	...	45	65
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	2	4
Bronchitis	...	4	1
Pneumonia	...	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	0	2
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum	...	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	0	0
Appendicitis	...	1	0
Other Digestive Diseases	...	0	1
Nephritis	...	4	1
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	...	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	...	0	0
Premature Birth	...	1	1
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	...	1	1
Suicide	...	2	3
Road Traffic Accidents	...	1	0
Other Violent Causes	...	2	3
All other Causes	...	4	10
All Causes	...	97	130

Sanitary Inspector's Report

The Castle,
Barnstaple,
July, 1950.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this my twenty-ninth Annual Report on the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during 1949.

Information regarding Refuse Collection and Disposal, Inspection of Meat and other Foods, Cowsheds, Dairies, Factories, Food Premises, Food and Drugs work, Ice Cream Sampling, Rodent disinfection and duties under the Petroleum Explosives Acts are set out in some detail. In addition there are the usual duties under the Health Acts and Regulations all of which have received the constant attention of the department.

The total number of visits made was 3,305. The number of animals examined at the Public Abattoir was 29,529 which was more than last year by 3,839, and the total amount of foodstuffs condemned exceeded that of 1948 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons, viz., $14\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

No serious outbreak of illness occurred during the year but on page 31 information will be found about the bacteriological examination of certain foods, and shows that, but for the timely action taken by the department a large number of persons might have suffered from food poisoning.

Two samples of town water taken for bacteriological examination and both showed B. Coli absent in 100 nil.

In May Miss Bolt resigned to become the wife of a clergyman. As clerk in the department for about $5\frac{1}{2}$ years she was a very popular member and the very efficient manner in which she carried out her duties at all times will be remembered. For three months she very kindly instructed Miss Fennell in the various duties in order that the department should maintain the accustomed standard and for this we record grateful thanks. The department presented her with a Canteen of Cutlery and it is interesting to note that every member of the outdoor staff wished to be associated with the gift and to express good wishes for her future happiness.

It is pleasing to report that Miss Fennell, who was appointed in March, carries out her duties in a very satisfactory manner and is proving a worthy successor to Miss Bolt.

Once more thanks are recorded to Mr. Coope for the faithful discharge of his duties during the year.

Refuse Disposal and Salvage.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages—Tip	604	16	0			
Salvage	218	5	10			
Weed	78	7	5			
Soil	11	19	9			
Holidays	51	16	6			
Sick Pay	15	19	1			
	<hr/>			981	4	7
Insurance—Health	}					
Superannuation						
General						
Lifting Soil	...	...		27	6	9
Clothing	...	...		3	16	2
Tools, &c.	...	...		5	4	6
Salvage Sundries—						
Baler Repairs	4	6	9			
Sacks	13	15	0			
Paper	7	2	11			
	<hr/>			25	4	8
Rent of Depôt	...	...		78	0	0
Rent—Parks Committee						
Tip	...	...		10	0	0
Sundries	...	...		22	19	10
				<hr/>		
				£1261	19	9

Summary.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Refuse Collection	1470	3	11	Refuse Disposal	1261	19	9
S.D. Frieghter							
(Proportion)	1215	14	5		9	7	10
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	£2685	18	4		£1271	7	5
	<hr/>				<hr/>		

Total Expenditure ... £3957 5 9

During the year the following figures were returned.

Vehicle	Loads of House Refuse	Loads of Trade Refuse	Loads of Slaughter- house Offal	Miles Travelled	Gallons of Petrol used	Miles per Gallon
1	144	27	39	680·8	108	6·3
2	1497	3	10	5203·9	934	5·5
3	593	695	249	4783·0	801	5·9
	<u>2234</u>	<u>725</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>10667·7</u>	<u>1843</u>	

TOTAL COSTS

Estimated	Actual
£	£
4456	3957

TOTAL INCOME	
Estimated	Actual
£	£
Trade Refuse	300
300	337
Removal of S.H. offal ...	200
200	190
Salvage ...	1000
1000	601
<u>£1200</u>	<u>£1128</u>

It will be seen from the above figures that there was a saving of £499 on payments and the income was less by £372 making a net saving of £127.

The reason for the differences both in expenditure and income is almost entirely due to the breakdown of the Salvage Scheme (see further comments on next page).

					£
Total cost of Collection and Disposal (less slaughter-house offal) ...	...	...	...	...	3842
Total income (less slaughter-house offal) ...	...	...	...	...	938
Net Cost	...	...	...	...	<u>2904</u>

				s.	d.
Net Cost per ton (House and Trade Refuse) per annum ...	13	4	$\frac{1}{2}$		
Net Cost per 1,000 population ...	...	...	...	£182	
Rate in the £ ...	6·24	pence			

The following table shows the quantities of materials salvaged, together with their value :—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper & Cardboard	67	10	0	0	335	17	8
Newsprint	...	6	5	2	53	0	0
Books and selected waste	8	6	0	0	97	10	6
Bonus (Board of Trade)					66	8	9
Pewter ...	...			6	12	0	
Lead ...	...			6	7	0	

Textiles—

Rags	...	1	19	1	15	35	14	7
Woollens	...			1	21	1	12	4
Bagging	...	10	2	24	3	6	4	
Cord	...	8	0	8	2	2	9	
Bones	5	0	18	1	9	4	
Jars 1320	...	6	2	18	2	14	6	

85	12	0	4	£600	15	9
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Salvage of waste materials commenced in November, 1939, and in September of 1949 the direction was removed by the Board of Trade. The price which merchants were prepared to pay to local authorities immediately fell to such a low figure that it became uneconomic to continue this work. In consequence the two men employed on baling paper, &c., were dismissed.

It had been estimated to receive £1,000 for salvage during the year to March, 1950, whereas the figure was reduced to £600 15s. 9d.

The total amount of materials collected since 1939 reached 1,566 tons, for which £9,705 were received.

Approximately **250 tons** of kitchen waste were collected in the Borough by pig keepers during 1949.

Meat and Food Inspection

1,286 visits of inspection were made to premises where food is prepared or sold for human consumption.

29,529 Food Animals were slaughtered and inspected at the Council's Public Abattoir as follows :—

Cows	Heifers	Steers & Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1356	918	571	3883	22148	653 (148 home consumption)
3831 more than last year.					

In addition the following were brought in dressed for inspection—
Beasts, 6. Calves, 3. Sheep, 247. Pigs, 53.

The number of casualty carcasses was 3077, made up as follows—
Beasts, 441. Calves, 695. Sheep, 1554. Pigs, 387.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS. 11 cases were found during the year. The following table shows the animals affected and the location :—

Cows	Heads	Hearts
Heifers	3	2
Steers	2	1

In order to detect *Cysticerci* it is essential to make several incisions into the external and internal masseter muscles, to examine carefully the tongue musculature, and inspect the heart wall externally and by incision, to cut into the thick pillars of the diaphragm and also to inspect all other surfaces.

The following cases of carcasses affected with Generalised Tuberculosis were reported to the Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Health Division.

Cows, 53.	Heifers, 11.	Steers, 6.	Bull, 1.	Calves, 4	} 98 cases.
also animals partly affected					
Cows, 9.	Heifers, 5.	Steers, 2.	Bulls, 3.	Calves, 4	

9 Licenses were issued to slaughtermen.

The following is a list of the meat, etc., condemned as diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, together with the reasons for condemnation :—

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Carcases of Beef	... 169	84 Generalised Tuberculosis 16 Tuberculosis with Emaciation 13 Johne's Disease and Emaciation 9 General Dropsy 14 Dropsy and Emaciation 3 Moribund 2 Uræmia 2 Septic Metritis 2 Septicæmia 2 General Anæmia 7 Peritonitis 2 Pleurisy and Peritonitis 1 Leukemia 1 Jaundice 3 Inflammation 1 Carcinoma and Nephritis 1 Dropsy and Nephritis 1 Bacterial Necrosis & Johne's Disease 1 Pyæmia 1 Pleurisy and Emaciation 2 Emaciation 1 Decomposition
Fore Quarters of Beef	... 27	Tuberculosis (19 carcasses)
Part Fore Quarters of Beef	6	Tuberculosis (6 „)
Shoulders of Beef	... 2	Tuberculosis (2 „)
Hind Quarters of Beef	... 2	Tuberculosis (2 „)
Side of Beef ...	... 1	Tuberculosis
Cows Heads	... 177	124 Tuberculosis 30 Actinomycosis 7 Abscess 1 Septic Condition 6 Cysticercus Bovis 9 Various
Beef ...	... 372 lbs 104 lbs 321 lbs 1526 lbs 68 lbs 156 lbs 292 lbs 24 lbs 15 lbs 34 lbs 42 lbs 137 lbs	Tuberculosis Dropsy Abscess Injury Nephritis Bruising Pleurisy Peritonitis Cysts Inflammation Lipoma Various

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Carcases of Veal ... 106		60 Immature 10 Dropsy and Emaciation . 4 Moribund 1 Joint Ill 8 Inflammation 11 General Dropsy 4 Tuberculosis 3 Septic Conditions 1 Gangrenous Pneumonia 2 Peritonitis and Emaciation 3 Pneumonia
Veal ... 14 lbs		Nephritis
	34 lbs	Inflammation
164 lbs	16 lbs	Abscess
	69 lbs	Injury
	10 lbs	Bruising
	21 lbs	Various
Carcases of Mutton ... 223		9 Anæmia, etc. 34 Moribund 10 Gangrenous Pneumonia 70 Dropsy and Emaciation 20 Inflammation 35 General Dropsy 10 Peritonitis 10 Decomposition 14 Septic Conditions 1 Jaundice 1 Leucocythæmia 1 Uræmia 5 Injury 3 Other affections
Mutton ... 688 lbs		Pneumonia
	242 lbs	Dropsy
	194 lbs	Inflammation
	1058 lbs	Dystokia
3895 lbs	633 lbs	Injury
	126 lbs	Abscess
	117 lbs	Deformity, etc
	79 lbs	Arthritis
	478 lbs	Pleurisy or Peritonitis
	90 lbs	Septic Conditions
	190 lbs	Various
Carcases of Pork ... 9		1 General Inflammation 1 Fevered and Inflammation 1 Emaciation 1 Anæmia 1 Moribund 1 Dropsy and Emaciation 1 Decomposition 1 Acute Fever and General Dropsy 1 Swine Erysipelas

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Pork	6 lbs	Tuberculosis
	14 lbs	Inflammation
247 lbs	36 lbs	Decomposition
	117 lbs	Injury
	74 lbs	Various
Pigs Heads	35	Tuberculosis
Offals	64046 lbs	Various
Also		
Beef	56 lbs	Injury
	1298 lbs	Bone Taint
	76 lbs	Bruising
	12 lbs	Cysts
Mutton	272 lbs	Bone Taint
	56 lbs	Various
Fish	1489 lbs	Decomposition

The following table gives particulars of Livers condemned:—

		Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Livers	Fluke	528	...	833	...
	Cavernous Angioma	76	...	...	...
	Fatty	10	...	179	...
	Abscesses	54	3	23	...
	Cysts	3	3	22	1
	Cirrhosis	10	1	8	7
	Congestion	4	2	9½	5
	Parasitic Abscesses	...	...	326	...
	Tuberculosis	88	3	...	8
	Various	2	1	56	4
Portions of Livers	Fluke	1174	...	1072	...
Food in Tins	Meat	519 tins	Blown, &c.		
	Fish	48 "	"		
	Vegetables	67 "	"		
	Fruit	43 "	"		
	Jam	11 "	"		
	Soup	2 "	"		
	Orange Juice	5 "	"		
	Milk	152 "	"		
	Syrup	2 "	"		
	Various	27 "	"		
				Total tins	
				876	
				Weight	
				2255 lbs	

Various	No. etc.		Reason for Condemnation
Fish Cakes ...	54 lbs		Stale
Beans ...	60 lbs		Weevils
Sausages, etc.	27 lbs		Contaminated
Rolled Oats...	3 lbs		"
Dried Figs ...	4 lbs		Fermented
Butter ...	28 lbs		Soiled
Noodles ...	46 lbs		Contaminated
Tapioca ...	12 lbs		Mouldy
Grape Fruit...	12 lbs		Rotten
Marzipan ...	22 lbs		Mildew
Cream Cheese	24 lbs		Decomposition
Biscuits ...	6 lbs		Soiled
Dried Egg ...	2 Packets		Damp
Jam ...	4 Jars		Damaged
Piccalilli ...	18 Jars		"
Pudding			
Mixture ...	72 Packets		"
Rabbits ...	204		Decomposition
Shreaded			
Wheat ...	1 Packet		Contaminated
Crumpets ...	14		"
Tomato Sauce	3 bottles		Damaged

TOTAL WEIGHT 559 lbs.

			Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat condemned at Slaughterhouse			71	15	0	22
" " " Shops	...	...	...	15	3	6
Fish ...	...	...	...	13	1	5
Food in tins	...	...	1	0	0	15
Other Food	...	...	...	4	3	27
			74	9	1	19

Of the 71 tons 15 cwts. 0 qr. 22 lb. condemned at the Slaughterhouse, 32 tons 15 cwts. 3 qrs. 10 lbs. came from casualty carcasses.

685 meat condemnation certificates and 252 other food condemnation forms were issued in connection with the above.

The following shows the extent of Tuberculosis found in Bovine Animals :—

	Cows	Heifers	Oxen	Calves
Whole Carcases—Generalised ...	66	9	9	4
T.B. with emaciation	16	...	...	...
Forequarters, head, lungs, liver & skirt	1	...	...	...
„ head, lungs and skirt ...	1	...	...	...
„ head, lungs and liver ...	1	2	1	...
„ lungs, liver and stomach...	1	...	...	...
„ lungs, liver, and skirt ...	2	1	...	...
„ lungs, liver, skirt & kidney	1	...	...	...
„ lungs, heart and skirt ...	2	1	...	...
Forequarters and lungs	3	1	1	...
Part Forequarter head, lungs, liver and stomach	1	...	...	...
„ head and lungs	2	...	1	...
„ lungs and liver	1	...	1	...
„ head, lungs, liver and skirt	1	...	...	...
„ and head ...	1	...	...	...
Hindquarter lungs, liver and stomach	...	1	...	...
„ head and lungs	...	...	1	...
Side head, lungs and liver	...	1	...	...
Head ...	35	7	7	...
Head and lungs	33	5	6	...
Head, lungs and liver	3	1	1	...
Head, lungs and skirt	3	1	1	...
Head, liver and skirt	...	1	...	...
Head, lungs and stomach	...	1	1	...
Head, lungs, liver and skirt	4	4	2	...
Head, lungs, liver and stomach	2	...	2	...
Head, lungs, liver and heart	...	1	...	...
Head, lungs, liver, skirt and stomach	4	1	...	...
Head and stomach	1	...	...	...
Lungs ...	89	13	12	2
Lungs and skirt	7	...	...	...
Lungs and liver	9	4	2	...
Lungs, liver and skirt	7	4	..	...
Lungs, liver and stomach	3	...	...	...
Lungs, skirt and stomach	2	...	...	...
Lungs, liver and udder	1	...	...	...
Lungs and kidneys	...	2	...	...
Lungs and stomach	2	1	...	...
Lungs, liver and heart	...	1	...	...
Lungs, skirt, liver and stomach	3	2	...	...
Lungs, liver, heart and skirt	...	2	...	...
Lungs, skirt and kidney	1	...	...	...
Liver ...	6	2	...	1
Liver and stomach	2	...	...	...
Stomach	...	2	...	...
Pluck	...	...	...	2
Totals	317	71	48	9

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1489	1356	3883	22148	653
„ brought in dressed ...		6	3	247	53
Number inspected	1489	1362	3886	22395	706
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	12	57	102	223	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	876	888	157	3679	84
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	59·6%	69·4%	6·6%	17·4%	13·2%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	18	82	4	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	101	235	5	...	39
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	8·%	23·3%	·23%	...	5·5%

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

The following list shows the number of Cowsheds and Dairies within the Borough, together with the number of retailers and wholesale producers of milk.

Retailers who have Cowsheds and Dairies in the Borough	16
Retailers with Dairy only—non producers ...	10
Retailers whose premises are situated outside the Borough	15
Retailers with Dairy within the district and who have Cowsheds outside	4
Retailer without a Dairy—non producer ..	1
Wholesale producers with Cowshed and Dairy ...	4

In addition to the above, approximately 25 wholesale producers bring milk to the town, making a total of 64 different sources of supply.

There are 5 Tuberculin Tested producers.

2 Accredited producers.

1 Pasteurised producer.

256 Inspections were made to the 20 Cowsheds and 34 Dairies situated within the Borough. Limewashing is carried out during the months of May and October, and the premises are found to be maintained in a clean condition.

All samples of non-graded milk were taken until October by the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and examined at the Area Laboratory in Barnstaple. We are grateful to Miss Smithson for the following results and express thanks to her and to the members of her staff for the help given in connection with the bacteriological examinations of milk.

	Category A.	Category B.	Category C.	Total.
Town produced	153	24	6	183
Produced outside	218	32	13	263

The following graded samples were taken by the Health Department and examined at the County Laboratory at Exeter. Once more we record our thanks to Dr. Moore, the County Bacteriologist, and his staff for the help which is so freely given to us.

8 samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken for examination, 3 of which failed to pass the required test.

41 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were submitted for examination and 10 failed to pass.

21 accredited samples were tested & 3 failed to pass the required test.

68 samples were submitted to the County Laboratory for the detection of Tubercle.

59 were negative and 9 inconclusive.

3 pre licence samples were taken and all passed.

Milk (Special Designations) Raw Milk Regulations and the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, came into force on 1st October. Under the first, all dairymen who are not producers of milk and all producers who have Dairies at premises other than those at which the herd is maintained and who sell milk having the designation (1) Tuberculin Tested (2) Accredited or (3) Pasteurised must be licensed to do so by the Town Council. In connection with the latter all dairy premises other than at place of production continue to be controlled by the Town Council.

A summary of requirements has been prepared and distributed to each dairyman in the town.

Housing.

The number of houses inspected was 271 and re-visits in connection with work found necessary 471.

3 Houses were measured under the Housing Act.

Visits re vermin 30.

The total number of houses built during the year:—

By Local Authority	35	{	Pilton Lawn	20
			Forches Estate	15
By Private Enterprise	17			

The families accommodated at the new Council Houses consisted of 74 adults and 106 children, as follows:—

	Adults	Children
Pilton Lawn	40	61
Forches Estate	34	45

Factories Act, 1937.

The following table show inspections, &c., carried out during 1949.

1—INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1 Non Mechanical Factories ...	43	25	Nil	Nil
2 Mechanical Factories ...	146	77	8	Nil
3 Other premises (excluding out workers premises) ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
Total ...	191	104	8	Nil

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Premises	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness				Nil
Overcrowding ...	...			
Unreasonable temperature ...	...			
Inadequate ventilation ...	2				
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	...			
Sanitary Conveniences—					Nil
(a) insufficient ...	1	1			
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	2	2			
(c) not separate for sexes ...	...			
Other offences (not relating to Home Work) ...	3	3	1	1	
Total ...	8	6	1	1	Nil

OUTWORK

Section 110				Section 111		
Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August	Number of Cases of Default in sending lists	Number of Prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel —Making ...	61	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lace Curtains and Nets ...	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	71	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

4 escape in case of fire certificates issued.

Food and Drugs.

The following table shows the samples taken during the year, with the results of their examination :—

Article	Number taken			Results of Examination	
	Formal	Inf'mal	Total		
Milk ...	1		1	861	17% deficient in fat
Milk—in course of delivery	13		13	11 genuine 845 858	2 not genuine 3% deficient in fat 5% "
Sausages—Pork	2		2	1 genuine 862	1 not genuine 14% deficient in meat
Beef ...	6	1	7	3 genuine 833 863 864 865	4 not genuine 20% deficient in meat 12% " 30% " 10% "
	22	1	23		

In addition to the above 38 samples of milk were analysed by your Sanitary Inspector.

The genuine samples of milk showed an average percentage of fat of 3·56% and non fatty solids 8·8%.

Sample 845 was taken at a milk depôt which on analysis showed 2·91% fat and 9·05% non fatty solids. It was 3% deficient in butter fat. Improper bulking of the supply was considered the reason.

Sample 858. This sample taken from a bulk churn in course of delivery contained 2·85% fat and 8·7% solids not fat and therefore was 5% deficient in butter fat. At the same time two other samples were taken from the same producer. One was from a churn containing 3 gallons of morning's milk with 3·4% fat, the other sample of previous evening's milk from a churn containing $8\frac{1}{2}$ gallons and this showed 3·9% fat. The non genuine sample was from churn containing $8\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of morning's milk. It would appear that the morning's milk was not properly mixed before pouring from one churn to another. A letter of warning was sent to the dairyman concerned.

Sample 861 contained only 2·49% fat but with 8·67% non fatty solids—17% deficient in fat. A visit was made to the cowshed some days later when the milking was in progress and the methods observed. A milking machine was being used, and the strippings were not added to the milk before bottling commenced. Milking times were 7 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.—16 hours between afternoon and the next morning milking. Four informal samples were taken and all were found below standard. Fat percentages were 2·5%, 2·4%, 2·4% and 2·9%. Later, informal samples were taken from individual cows. Some contained the minimum of 3% fat, and one was very low in fat. Altogether 13 samples were analysed at the office in order to prove that the cows were giving milk low in butter fat content rather than there was any adulteration or abstraction on the part of the dairyman. Necessary steps will be taken by this producer to improve the standard by removing the poor quality cows and altering the times of milking.

Sample 833. Sausages containing 40% meat instead of 50%—20% deficient in meat content. Legal proceedings were taken, the case proved and a fine of £6 imposed and one guinea analyst fee.

Four other samples of sausages were found deficient in meat content and legal proceedings taken. The following gives the information regarding each case and the fines imposed :—

862	Pork Sausages	43% meat,	14% deficient.	Fine £6 & 1 guinea fee
863	Beef Sausages	44% meat,	12% deficient.	Fine £5 „ „
864	„ „	30% meat,	30% deficient.	Fine £10 „ „
865	„ „	45% meat,	10% deficient.	Fine £4 „ „

The three formal samples of sausages found genuine contained the following percentages of meat—50%, 52% and 52%.

The informal sample contained 57% of meat.

Ice Cream

No.	Sample No.	Methylene Blue Reduction hours	Grade
1	1 2	1 4	3 2
2	1	3	2
3	1 2 3 4 5	4½ 4½ 4½ 4½ 4½	1 1 1 1 1
4	1 2 3	4½ 4½ 4½	1 1 1
5	1 2 3	5½ 4½ 4	1 1 2
6	1 2 3	4½ 4½ 4½	1 1 1
7	1 2 3	4½ 4½ 4	1 1 2

No.	Sample No.	Methylene Blue Reduction hours	Grade
9	1 2	4½ 4½	1 1
10	1 2 3	4½ under 4½	1 4 1
11	1 2 3 4	2 4½ 4½ 4	3 1 1 2

No.	Sample No.	Methylene Blue Reduction hours	Grade
8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0 4½ 4½ 4½ under 4½ 4½ 4½	4 1 1 1 4 1 4 1
Same producer different premises	1 2	4½ 4½	1 4

No.	Sample No.	Methylene Blue Reduction hours	Grade
9	1 2	4½ 4½	1 1
10	1 2 3	4½ under 4½	1 4 1
11	1 2 3 4	2 4½ 4½ 4	3 1 1 2

46 Samples were taken from 11 different producers. 1 not valid owing to excessive temperature, the remainder were graded as follows:— 27 Grade 1 which was satisfactory, 5 Grade 2 which was fair, 2 Grade 3 unsatisfactory and 5 were Grade 4—very bad.

The above table gives the individual results.

Results of Chemical Examination of Ice Cream Samples.

Sample Corresponding to No. Overleaf	Quantity Purchased Ounces	Percentages					Food Value in Ounces	Water in Ounces	Food Value Per Ounce	
		Fat	Protein	Sugar	Cereal Starch	Mineral Matter			Fat	Other Solids
8	3	6.3	2.57	12.7	6.7	0.57	.864	2.136	.063	.2246
5	1½	10.0	1.8	9.3	12.0	0.34	.502	.998	.10	.334
11	4.6	5.9	3.9	7.0	10.0	0.74	1.264	3.336	.06	.274
7	3.6	10.4	1.66	12.8	9.2	0.26	1.229	2.371	.106	.34

Samples of other Food Stuffs taken for Bacteriological Examination.

Cheese. One informal sample showed a growth of *B. Coli* of fæcal type—warning given to Importers.

Stew Gravy. Sample contained organisms which are incriminated frequently as food poisoning agents—food condemned and advice given regarding future methods.

Cooked Meat. Sample showed fæcal streptococci, coliform bacilli *staphylacoccus albus*, &c.

Nose and throat swabs were taken by the Medical Officer of Health from the persons dealing with this product with negative results—192 lbs. of meat condemned.

Crab Paste. Following an illness crab paste was suspected, and it was found that all the paste had not been consumed within a reasonable time after the tin had been opened. Sample submitted to the County Bacteriologist which showed a mixed growth of fæcal streptococci, coliform bacilli and *staphylacoccus albus*—the consumer was advised on action to be taken in future purchases of such product.

Fillets of Anchovies. Informal sample found satisfactory.

Full Cream Milk. Informal sample found satisfactory.

Pork Brawn. During examination of some tins of Pork Brawn (4 lb. size) their appearance did not appear satisfactory and two samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist. The report showed both samples foul smelling and discoloured and the number of organisms were more than 500,000 per gram. As these results were from tins which had been opened, and in view of the large quantity involved it was considered necessary to submit for examination two unopened tins. These were considered representative samples from the stock consisting of 13 cases each containing 20 4 lb. tins.

The report showed that the contents of each had a definite sour odour and the total number of organisms were 5,000 and 6,400 per gram respectively.

The findings suggested inadequate sterilisation of the tin during the canning process. All the tins, which numbered 285, were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

This consignment had been imported. The firm concerned and also the Ministry of Food were informed of the decision of this department.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

9 cases of Scarlet Fever were investigated.

The fumigations were :—

Scarlet Fever 5. Cancer 2. Tuberculosis 6.

Verminous 17. Poliomyelitis 1.

Three separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected.

Rodent Disinfestation (other than Sewers).

We have one full time Rodent Operator and the work is carried out strictly in accordance with N.S. 19.

Number of visits made in connection with treated premises	...	...	..	...	1101
Number of visits where no treatment found necessary					975
Total quantity of sausage rusk and bread mash used					6413 ounces
Total quantity of poison used	...	...	...		167 „
Poison bait consumed	...	...	...	...	481 „
Number of rats killed (estimated minimum)				...	1202
Number of bodies found	...	...	...		112

Sewers.

Since 1948 when the sewers were first treated it is estimated that at least 670 rats have been killed.

This year the third and fourth maintenance treatments were carried out, viz., in March and September. 127 manholes were baited. Test baits taken from 61 manholes and in 66 no takes were recorded. Poison baits were taken from 46 manholes and from 81 there were no takes.

This shows the rat population in the sewers is well under control and that the treatments now established are proving satisfactory.

Mr. Williamson continues to show keen interest in this very important work and the operations here recorded prove how well his duties are carried out.

Sewer Treatment.

SECTION	No. of manholes baited		AVERAGE PRE-BAIT TAKES				POISON TAKES			
	3rd Maintenance	4th Maintenance	3rd Maintenance Complete	3rd Maintenance Partial	4th Maintenance Complete	4th Maintenance Partial	3rd Maintenance Complete	3rd Maintenance Partial	4th Maintenance Complete	4th Maintenance Partial
Town	13	16	8	0	9	2	0	6	0	9
Trinity	12	21	5	0	6	4	0	4	0	10
Derby	9	20	7	0	6	2	0	3	0	6
Other Areas	—	25	—	—	3	1	—	—	0	3
Pilton	6	5	5	0	0	3	1	1	0	3
			25	0	24	12	1	14	0	31
Total No Takes			15	51	25	56				

3rd Maintenance—410 ozs. Bait used (Bread Mash). Poison Bait used 184 ozs. Poison Bait consumed 22 ozs. Estimated kill 55
 4th Maintenance—580 ozs. Bait used (Sausage Rusk). Poison Bait used 168 ozs. Poison Bait consumed 31 ozs. 77

It is a pleasure to record the very helpful co-operation received at all times from Mr. James, the rodent inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Petroleum and Explosives Act.

The following store licenses were granted under the Petroleum Act, 1928 :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	59
Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium			...	3
Petroleum Spirit and Crude Benzol	...		...	1
Petroleum Spirit, Carbide, and Petroleum Mixtures				1
Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures			...	6
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	4
Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	2
Petroleum Mixtures and Carbide of Calcium			...	1
				—
		Total	...	77
				—

The quantities stored are as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	201,596 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	2,280 lbs.
Crude Benzol	...	3,800 gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	1,454 gallons

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority for the above licences was £54 15s.

The number of premises registered for the storage of mixed explosives was 24.

**The following is a detailed list of Sanitary Operations
carried out during the year 1949**

		Public Health Act	Food & Drugs and Milk & Dairies
New sets of house drains laid	...	6	...
Drains repaired	... ..	17	...
Drains cleared	... ..	34	2
Fresh air inlets provided	..	4	...
New soil pipes fixed	... ..	6	...
New interceptors fixed	...	8	...
New vent pipes provided	...	5	...
New inspection chambers built	...	13	...
New gullies fixed	... ..	9	...
New water closets	... ..	10	...
New W.C. pans provided	...	26	...
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed		11	...
Rain pipes repaired	... ..	4	...
Premises cleansed	... ..	3	21
Plaster repaired	Internal	13	12
	External	8	...
Windows repaired or renewed	...	5	5
Floors renewed and repaired	...	12	...
Washing facilities provided	...	1	2
New scullery troughs provided	...	3	...
New scullery waste pipes fixed	...	1	...
Dampness remedied	... ..	7	...
Coppers repaired	... ..	1	...
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	5	...
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	13	2
Guttering renewed or repaired	...	9	...
Yards repaired or renewed	...	3	...
Lighting improved	... ..	...	3
Articles or clothing cleaned	...	...	13
Smoke & water tests applied to drains		56	...
Premises where nuisances abated	...	100	...
Vermin eradicated	... ..	17	...
Offensive accumulations removed	...	6	...
Larders provided	... ..	1	...
Miscellaneous	... ..	40	...

Summary of Inspections, &c.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	3305
Houses inspected, Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	271
Revisits	...	...	...	...	471
Visits to slaughterhouse and butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	886
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	76
Visits to other food shops	..	..	...	...	244
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	35
Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	109
Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	147
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	45
Piggeries inspected	...	...	...	...	14
Factories	...	...	...	...	86
Outworkers premises	...	...	...	...	39
Visits to refuse tip	...	...	..	...	159
Camping sites	...	...	...	...	2
Letters written	...	...	...	...	408
Statutory notices, Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	1
Informal Notices, Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	76
„ „ „ „					
				Milk and Dairies	3
„ „				Factories	8
„ „				Food & Drugs	18
„ „				Rodent Infestation	34
Verbal notices	...	...	...	...	57

I wish to record thanks to each Member of the Council, and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to all the Officials of the Corporation, for the support and consideration afforded.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

ARTHUR E. TUCKER.

